THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 17th March 1953.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at half-past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Government Hospital, Cannanore.

*42 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to extend the Cannanore Government Hospital buildings?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The answer is in the affirmative."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" When will the construction of the new block be completed, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Government approved certain schemes for improvement of certain taluk headquarters hospitals in 1949–50 and 1950–51 and 1951–52. Some of these schemes have not yet been taken up for execution and I cannot say when the work will be completed."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" According to the schemes of making extensions to the taluk headquarters hospitals, will the Government propose making extensions to the Villupuram hospital also?"

MR. SPEAKER :—" A separate question may be put."

Election of members to Works Committees in factories.

*43 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state why the Government have changed the procedure of electing members of Works Committees in factories by amending the rules issued under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1948, so as to have the elections conducted departmentally by arranging polling booths in factories instead of asking the registered trade union of the factory to suggest the names of such members?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The Government have changed the procedure of electing members of the Works Committees, because according to the changed procedure, the workers, whether members of the unions or not, will be entitled to vote independently, irrespective of their membership in any Trade Union and this principle is considered an improvement and a more democratic one. The Unions are not prejudiced as their strength can be reflected on the candidates elected by them."

[17th March 1953

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Will the Government enforce the same principle in respect of recognition of trade unions by ascertaining the opinion of the majority of the workers? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Hon. Members are aware that at present there is no rule which will compel any management to recognize any union. But in the new Industrial Relations Bill on the anvil at Delhi, there is a method of recognition and this method of electing the Works Committee is the first step in that direction."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" I would like to point out to the Hon. Minister that Labour is a concurrent subject irrespective of the fact whether the Central Government are contemplating legislation or not. May I therefore ask the Hon. Minister whether this Government are prepared to enforce this principle independently of the Government of India? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The House is aware that the Central Government are already bringing in a comprehensive legislation affecting all the States in this matter. This Government think that at this state it will be unnecessary to bring a separate legislation because what the Centre brings will cover the requirements of this State."

Supply of bedsheets in the General Hospital, Madras.

* 44 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that new patients on admission in general wards in the Government General Hospital, Madras, are not supplied with fresh bedsheets and if so, why?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The assumption underlying the question is not true."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that new patients are denied admission into the hospital for want of beds, not to talk of bedsheets? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" This hospital, like every other hospital, is admitting many more patients than there are beds sanctioned for the purpose."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the bedsheets are sterilized and cleaned before they are supplied to the patients in general wards? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir, there is a steam laundry also."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is it a fact that the new patients who are admitted are made to lie on the verandahs exposed to the atmosphere for want of sanction of more beds? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" As I have already said, many more patients are admitted than we can provide for according to the sanctioned bed strength and some of them have necessarily to be provided beds on the floor."